

Minutes of the Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture
September 4, 2014

Attending: Barbara Costa (chaired), Stephanie Marlin-Curiel, Carla Dorato, Aimee Taberner (took minutes)

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 by B Costa.

1. Minutes of July 7th meeting were reviewed and approved as amended.
2. Discussion of recent resignation of David Ardito from ACAC. Unsure if Roly Chaput or David Ardito officially notified town of their resignations from the board. School Committee needs to assign replacement. Other possible members discussed. Anyone interested should follow up with Adam Chapdelaine. B. Costa to follow up with Adam Chapdelaine to clarify board nomination and approval process.
3. Update from Amy Mongeau (formerly Amy Sawin), Arts and Cultural Liaison who has been working as a volunteer since July. Currently working in planning office weekly Tuesdays 1-4 and Thursday 1-5. Email address: amongeau@town.arlington.ma. She has set up a new website for ACAC, www.arlingtoncac.com, which includes email signup. Amy has met with every major arts/culture group in town and is developing google calendar of events with links to other websites. Need to develop criteria for inclusion of events. Developing monthly email newsletter. Created logo, facebook page, twitter page, and postcard for distribution on town day. Public arts inventory has been temporarily put on hold while these communication resources are being developed.
4. Discussion of budget and expenses for ACAC. Currently no budget allocated for this town commission. Concern with amount of work that needs to be done on behalf of town government and cultural organizations, with no funding. Advertising done on behalf of town is not covered, nor is Arts and Cultural Liaison position. Discussion of possible fundraising ideas to aid in administrative costs of communications, and cultural districting and cultural planning processes. Possibility of applying for Arlington Arts Council (ACC) grant discussed. S. Marlin-Curiel to follow up with members of ACC to determine whether some of the expenses that we incur on behalf of cultural organizations in town may be covered by a grant. C. Dorato feels that money could possibly be raised through private funds, banks or real estate companies for example. A. Taberner expressed concern about the appearance of having a bank or real estate company name as the funder of a town cultural plan. C. Dorato asked when grants from Massachusetts Cultural Council are due, and whether these expenses may be covered. \$4,500 was estimated as the cost for a consultant to work with ACAC and other town and cultural organizations on a cultural plan for the town. B. Costa to start conversations with the finance committee in October.
5. Discussion of Cultural districting and cultural planning process, which overlap as they both involve visioning the future needs of the various cultural organizations and town, what can be done to encourage arts and culture in the town, and how these designations might bring additional funding for arts and cultural initiatives through granting agencies. Several board members met with Meri Jenkins of the Massachusetts Cultural Commission on July 14th. M. Jenkins explained need to identify all the arts/cultural entities in a district. Question of which

district would proceed first, East Arlington or Arlington Center. Joe Curro suggested merging two into one district. S. Marlin-Curiel will send A. Mongeau the existing work on cultural districting. A. Mongeau will talk with Adam Kurowski in the town Development & Planning office to map out these areas/organizations/businesses of cultural importance. Meeting of representatives of ACAC and ATED planned for October 9th to discuss next steps for Cultural Planning and Districting, both of which are strongly tied to tourism and economic development. A. Taberner will follow up with Adria Arch regarding her correspondence with Ann Bunder of Carlisle and Company, a cultural planning consultant located in Concord who completed the cultural plan for the town of Natick. Agreement of the need to better understand preliminary steps for both processes, and understand what role A. Mongeau will play in the process; she has already made an account for Arlington on the MCC site. Agreement that having a point person within the town to serve as the coordinator for this process would be helpful, but a significant undertaking, particularly for a volunteer Arts and Cultural Liaison. Discussion of inviting Ann Bunder to October 2nd meeting to aid in preparation for October 9th meeting with ATED. ACAC members agreed to begin meeting at 7 PM instead of 7:30 if consultant was able to attend. An agenda item for October 2nd meeting is preparation for October 9th meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Action Items:

1. B. Costa to follow up with Adam Chapdelaine to clarify board nomination and approval process.
2. A. Mongeau to develop criteria for inclusion of events on online calendar.
3. S. Marlin- Curiel to follow up with members of Arlington Cultural Council (ACC) to determine whether some of the expenses that we incur on behalf of cultural organizations in town may be covered by a grant.
4. C. Dorato to look into when grants from Massachusetts Cultural Council are due, and whether ACAC planning expenses may be covered.
5. C. Dorato and A. Taberner to look into applications for Bank funding.
6. B. Costa to start conversations with the finance committee in October.
7. S. Marlin-Curiel will send A. Mongeau the existing work on cultural districting.
8. A. Mongeau will talk with Adam Kurowski in the town planning office to map out these areas/organizations/businesses of cultural importance.
9. A. Taberner will follow up with Adria Arch regarding her correspondence with Ann Bunder of Carlisle and Company. Determine if consultant can be present at next ACAC meeting on October 2nd.